

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON.—At a recent meeting of the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the Rev. T. James read a paper on the works now in progress at St. Peter's, Northampton, from which it appears that the work of reconstruction has begun. On the demolition of the east wall, many elements of guidance to the proper style of restoration were found, and the result was that a Norman design for east end has been adopted in preference to one of decorated character, previously indicated by some more obvious remains, but incongruous with the old Norman part of the edifice. Remains of a decorated window, however, in the east wall were found, and it was ascertained that the bases of the two easternmost Norman semipiers had been worked out of richly sculptured stone, reused, and hence of a still earlier date: the pattern was Runic, or, as with some, Danish. The extension of the east end of aisles and chancel to the ancient Norman limits has been adopted, though the estimate was formed on the narrower basis, and accordingly the interior cannot be completed without some six or seven hundred pounds beyond the sum yet subscribed.

THE YORK BANQUET.—At the dinner in honour of the International Exhibition, given at York, by the mayor of that city, to the Prince Consort, the Premier, and other members of the government, and the Lord Mayor of London and other civic and corporate authorities, the Prince delivered, as usual, a most effective and admirable speech. Lord John Russell also addressed the meeting, and the Earl of Carlisle, who, while deprecating the use of undue compliment or unreasonable expectation, said, "but may not he who has taken the foremost share in originating this great enterprise—may not all of you who have contributed to its effectual promotion, indulge the hope that you are giving a new impulse to civilization, that you are bestowing an additional reward upon industry, that you are supplying a fresh guarantee to the harmony of nations? Yes, my lords, the nations are stirring at our call, but it is not to the trumpet sound of battle, or to the shout of homicidal triumphs; we are summoning them to the peaceful field of a nobler competition, not built upon the superiority and predominance of one country and the depression and prostration of another, but one in which all may strive who can do most to embellish, to improve, and to elevate their common humanity." Brilliant as the turn out altogether seems to have been, perhaps nothing connected with it is more worthy of note than the fact that while the sayings and doings at the evening's banquet were at their climax in York, the words there uttered were being prepared in London for publication at the morning's reprint, and the proceedings of a meeting which did not terminate at York till after midnight, were reported in the London papers even before sunrise.

CUTTERS OF LEATHER AND OTHER MATERIALS.—We lately inspected two machines invented and patented by Mr. Thos. Mansell, says a contemporary, one of which is for cutting or shaping leather, paper, linen, and other fabrics. It consists of a "fly-press." The leather or fabric to be cut is to be laid on a steel plate, and the tool being brought down upon it, cuts to the required shape. Several thicknesses of leather or fabric may be cut at same time, and the press may either be worked by hand or machinery. The second invention is a machine for blocking or shaping the fronts of Wellington, Clarence, or Blucher boots. These machines will be sent, we understand, to the International Exhibition.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—The first public meeting for the session was held on October 23, Sir Fortunatus Dwaris, F.R.S., in the chair. A number of presents received during the recess were laid on the table, and a long list of additional associates was read, including the names of the Earl of Derby, Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Skelmersdale, Bishop of Manchester, Sir B. Heywood, Bart., Sir Oswald Mosely, Bart., &c. &c. A statement of proceedings taken in consequence of a resolution passed at the Manchester Congress "recommending an attempt to form a junction between the Archæological Association and Institute," was read, and having been printed, the members present were furnished with copies of the same. A vase found in Chas-

wood Forest, in June 1840, containing a large number of Roman coins, was exhibited. This formed part of the temporary museum at Manchester, and is now the property of the Association. A description and particulars of the coins will appear in the journal. Mr. Burdett exhibited a casket of the fourteenth century, purchased lately in Paris. Mr. Planche made some remarks on a tiling helmet of the time of King John, found at Eynesford Castle, Kent, belonging to Mr. Pratt. Also upon tapestries in various parts of England, of the time of Henry VII., but which are frequently referred to an earlier period, such as that in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, said to have been given to that city by Henry VI., and those under the music galleries at Hampton Court. A paper by Mr. J. A. Repton, on the history of the various styles used in the construction of timber houses, was read by Mr. C. Bailey, secretary, and produced a very interesting discussion.

THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES.—This exhibition, to which we have before alluded, promises to be very excellent. Amongst the works already sent in are drawings by Topham, Anthony, Bentley, Branswhite, Chalton, Lee, Hollins, Redgrave, Copley Fielding, F. Goodhall, Patten, Frost, Tenniel, Fripp, Holland, O'Neill, Linton, Nesfield, Gas-tineau, McKenzie, Haug, Oakley, J. Wood, Jenkins, Corbould, James Godwin, A. Cooper, J. Hart, Bennett, Callow, Clint, Cooke, Dodgson, Duncan, W. Evans, Lance, Elmore, Frith, Egg, Cope, Turner, Martin, Solomon, Hook, Pyne, Lake Price, Allen, Hunt, A. Johnston, Jutsum, Kennedy, Knell, Montague, Niemann, Penley, Vacher, John Wilson, jun., Wehnert, Wingfield, and David Roberts.

JACOB'S ISLAND, BERMUNDSEY.—A deputation from the Metropolitan Sanitary Association waited on the Commissioners of Sewers on the 29th ult., respecting the tidal ditches in Jacob's Island, Bermundsey. A memorial, signed by sixty of the inhabitants of Bermundsey, was read, praying the commissioners to use the powers entrusted to them, and fill up the tidal ditches. The Rev. C. Hume, Dr. Gavin, and Mr. C. R. Walsh, explained the wretched condition of that locality, and the sanitary evils arising therefrom; and were assured by the commissioners that, within a very few days, steps would be taken for its improvement, by a comprehensive plan of house drainage; but that in consequence of legal proceedings taken against them, the commissioners could not promise at present to fill up the tidal ditches, as the memorialists and deputation urged them to do.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—In response to some very monopolistic remarks on electro-telegraphic progress, by Mr. Walker, of the South-Eastern line, a correspondent of the Times points attention to the fact, that the New York Herald derives from the electric telegraph, in round numbers, thirty times the service which the Times derives from the same agent, although no American journal can command a tithe of its resources. The transmitting power of the telegraph now in actual use in the United States is stated to be from four to five times greater than that of the English system, but a still more rapid method is about to be practically applied. "Mr. Walker," adds the same writer, "implies, that if the business of the telegraph were much increased, there would be a risk of errors of communication, or of injurious and inconvenient delays in the transmission of despatches. To this I have only to reply, that there are no complaints of such errors or of such delays in the United States, although the press, free even to licentiousness, is open to every such complaint. Turning to Mr. Walker's own communication, we find him on this point even saying—"Indeed, if I thought it likely that our present charges would bring us a great or a heavy pressure of business, I should be disposed to advocate an advance in price: and for this reason—I consider that the telegraph is an instrument to be used when other means fail. How will it be when a dying wife shall send to call home her husband, and her message shall be 20th on the list, and will go in its turn?" How will it be, indeed,—at least, under present management,—when, even now, a message between life and death takes four hours more than the usual train to run between London and Paris, as recorded in the

week's Times with Mr. Walker's question!—A deputation from the British Electric Telegraph Company has had an interview with the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, at the Viceroyal Lodge, on the subject of a continuous electro-telegraphic communication throughout the three kingdoms.—Workmen are employed at Paris just now in fixing a wire from the Bastille to the Madeleine, as an experiment for an electric telegraph throughout Paris for the transmission of messages.

MANCHESTER WATER-RATE.—The corporation of Manchester have resolved to confer a very great boon on their fellow-townsmen, by devoting one-half of the splendid profits of their gas establishment in reducing the water-rate to one-half what it would otherwise amount to. The gas profits are about 36,000*l.* a year. Some interested parties have been in the habit of attempting to sneer down the idea of corporations becoming gas manufacturers. Here is one corporation that is not only a gas manufacturer, but a water supplier too, and what is there in the result to sneer at? Not only are the constituents of that corporation supplied with cheap and good gas, but with cheap and good water too, and moreover with other noble city improvements, simply because they have chosen to take these their own important public interests into their own hands, rather than to allow them to be administered by self-interested, and but too often blindly and stupidly self-interested, companies.

SURVEYOR OF THE CITY OF YORK.—Mr. J. B. Atkinson, architect, has been appointed city surveyor, at a salary of 200*l.* per annum. He is not required to devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office.

THE EXETER BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES COMPETITION.—The advertisement produced, it is reported, about a dozen designs in competition. The unsuccessful competitors have received back their plans, with an intimation of their not possessing the requirements demanded. They are not informed who their successful opponents are. It is farther reported that a design from a town in Cheshire was put in before the advertisement was issued in July, and that this, or an improved version of it, has been adopted, and that the competition is therefore *nil*. Can any of your readers throw light upon the proceeding, to satisfy the candidates and her who calls for satisfaction, viz.,—JUSTITIA?

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.—The first meeting of the Institute will be held on Monday, 4th inst., when a paper will be read on "The Remains of the Architecture of the Romish Provinces."

THE NEW PARK AT BATTERSEA.—We understand that the Commissioners of Woods and Works are progressing with the arrangements for carrying into effect the projected park in Battersea-fields, and have purchased, for the sum of 11,000*l.*, the premises so long known as the Red-house.

TENDERS

Of the new Devonport workhouse, which were opened before the committee on the 25th ult.

Symons and Hoelings, Devonport	£22,150 16 8
Perkins, Devonport	22,135 0 0
T. Greenwood, Devonport	22,088 19 84
Marshall, Plymouth	19,765 19 2
W. and T. May, Devonport	19,669 8 24
Harvey, Plymouth	19,648 7 9
T. Clift, Plymouth	19,530 19 44

For erecting a dwelling-house and office, stable building, and fence walls, at Charlton, Kent. Mr. Edwards, Architect.

King	£1,595 0 0
Wills	2,273 0 0
Peako	2,078 0 0
Holland	2,039 0 0
Locke and Neuhau	1,905 0 0

For hospital at Gloucester union workhouse. Messrs. Jacques and Son, Architects.

Hayes, Gloucester	£3,110 0 0
Rims, Gloucester	1,865 0 0
C. Niblett, Gloucester	1,945 0 0
Cholerton, Quedgeley	1,550 0 0

For building and finishing four fourth-rate houses, for Mr. Lyane, Camden-town.

Lawrence	£1,517 0 0
Brown	1,390 0 0
Higgs	1,185 0 0
Collins	1,179 0 0
Follock	1,135 0 0
Young	1,049 0 0
Jordan	1,000 0 0

* Accepted.